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# Russian Battle Grows In Fury As Red Armies Hammer Nazi Salient

## HEAVY SUPREMACY BUILT FOR MOSCOW

**L**AST NIGHT, AS THE FOURTH WEEK IN THE TITANIC BATTLE OF RUSSIA CAME TO A CLOSE, NAZI FORCES WERE MAKING A SUPREME EFFORT TO SMASH THROUGH THE SOVIET DEFENCES TO MOSCOW.

Violent fighting reported from the central sector of the vast 2,000-mile long front may be only the prelude to still more furious struggles, for reports from Istanbul state that 4,000,000 of Russia's best-equipped and mechanised forces are in strategic positions behind Moscow waiting to be thrown against the Nazis at the opportune moment.

### To Defend Moscow Russia's 4,000,000 Men In Reserve

NAZI ARMIES THRUSTING SAVAGELY IN A THREE-PRONG DRIVE TOWARDS MOSCOW HAVE YET TO MEET AT LEAST 4,000,000 OF THE SOVIET'S BEST-EQUIPPED AND MECHANISED TROOPS WHO HAVE TAKEN UP STRATEGIC POSITIONS BEHIND THE RUSSIAN LINES.

This admission of immense Soviet reserves was made yesterday by Axis diplomats now in Istanbul. It suggests that large-scale Russian offensives will not be launched until Nazi lines of communication are more drawn out and the invading forces are far from their bases.

Soviet strategy, according to informed quarters in the Turkish city, is, in the meantime, to hamper the Nazi advance.

This assumption is strengthened by a dispatch from Istanbul to the Vichy News Agency stating that several dozen Soviet divisions are engaged behind Moscow, and that Moscow itself is defended by tactical concentrations of anti-aircraft guns.

Further admissions by the Axis who, in most cases, were spokesmen of embassies and legations in Moscow, and are returning to their respective capitals by Istanbul, were—Berlin claims of huge Soviet forces during the first week of the Moscow campaign; the fact that the Luftwaffe were still suffering severe losses in the Moscow area; and the fact that Moscow, declared the Axis, is a great feeling of the city and the belief that resistance cannot be broken.

**FIGHTING ON**  
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### Churchill Message As V Army Mobilises

**A**LL over the German-occupied territories of Europe will mobilise themselves today in the "V" for victory campaign.

As midnight struck, Col. Britton, the mystery announcer of the "V" campaign, said in the radio and gave this message from Mr. Churchill:

"The 'V' sign is the symbol of the unconquerable will of the occupied territories and a portent of the fate awaiting the Nazis. So long as the peoples of Europe continue to refuse all collaboration with the invaders, it is sure that their cause will be victorious."

Col. Britton continued: "In a few minutes there will be millions of 'V's' on walls and doors and pavements all over Europe. It is a sign of the German people's resistance to the invaders."

### At Smolensk

While the fall of Smolensk is not admitted by the Russians, the latest Soviet communiqué states that the fighting is going on in the Smolensk area.

The base of the German salient some 50 miles long—between Vitebsk and Mogilev, north-west and south-west of Smolensk respectively.

South of Mogilev the recent Russian counter-offensive, resulting in the capture of Rogatchev and Shobin, appears to have driven the Germans back almost to Bobruisk, on the Berezina River.

Fighting was also going on last night near Polotsk and Nevel, 60 miles north-west and north of Vitebsk respectively.

The position south of Leningrad seems to be unchanged.

### German Claims

The battle in the Pskov-Porkhov area, south-east of Lake Peipus and 150 miles south-west of Leningrad, continues. The Nazis yesterday claimed to be east of Pskov, but the town itself was in Russian hands.

The left wing of the Nazi drive on Leningrad has been under heavy Soviet artillery fire from the Leningrad-Moscow railway. This strafing is preventing the arrival of German reinforcements.

In the Ukraine, the Germans claimed last night that the town of Novograd-Volynsk, 130 miles west of Kiev, where a fierce battle has been in progress for a week, is in German hands.

Further south German and Russian forces have crossed the River Dniester into the Ukraine. They have taken the town of Zhitomir, according to the German High Command.

"Our air force during July 18 and during the night continued to destroy, destroy and mechanised units of the enemy, and to bomb enemy aircraft on their aerodromes."

In addition to the figures previously reported during July 16-17, our Air Force destroyed 39 enemy planes, having lost 16 of our own during the same period. During July 18 our Air Force destroyed 32 enemy planes.

**GERMAN:**  
—German and Rumanian troops from Bessarabia have forced a passage over the Dniester at several points.  
—As already announced by special press bulletins, the German troops of the 1st Army have crossed the strongly fortified Stalin Line north of the Pripiat Marshes has been extended beyond Smolensk.  
—Smolensk, stubbornly defended by the enemy, was captured on July 16.  
—Units of the Allied Finlän army broke stiff enemy resistance and pressed forward to the north shore of Lake Ladoga.

**ANOTHER CLAIM**  
—Berlin, Saturday.  
The capture of Novograd-Volynsk, 130 miles west of Kiev, is claimed by the German News Agency tonight.—Reuter.



### Communicues

## SMOLENSK BATTLE GOES ON

—Moscow

**OFFICIAL** German claims to have extended beyond Smolensk through the Stalin Line beyond Smolensk were denied in yesterday's Soviet communiqué, which declared that intense fighting was continuing in the direction of the town.

The communiqués read:—

**RUSSIAN:**  
—During the night of July 18 our troops continued to be engaged in the direction of the town of Polotsk, Nevel, Smolensk and Bobruisk.

In the other sectors of the front nothing of importance took place.

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### Kremlin Reported Destroyed

## HEAVY RAID ON MOSCOW

A HEAVY raid on Moscow... the Kremlin destroyed as well as the Academy of Sciences and many other cultural buildings in Moscow and other cities.

Leningrad Radio was last night quoted for this news by two Stockholm newspapers, "Aftonbladet" and "Aftonbladet", which has Nazi sympathies.

Moscow radio was stated to be silent because of the many raid alarms.

If true, this is the first raid Moscow has had—B.U.P.

### "Hitler And Mussolini To Meet"

**MOSCOW RADIO STATED** YESTERDAY THAT ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, A MEETING BETWEEN HITLER AND MUSSOLINI WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

Questions to be discussed, it was added, included the position of the Russo-German front, the replacement of German army of occupation in Europe by Italian troops, the outlook in the war against Britain, and the position in France.

### Cruisers Bombed At Palermo

HEAVY bombers of the RAF carried out a successful attack on enemy cruisers and destroyers in Palermo harbour, Sicily, stating a Middle East communiqué.

The raid was carried out during Thursday night. Bombs were dropped on and near enemy warships but no results could not be seen owing to smoke.

The Fleet Air Arm also bombed the Italian aerodromes of Gerbini and Augusta.

Cyprus RAF fighters engaged two Junkers which dropped bombs on Cyprus on Friday. One of the enemy aircraft was shot down 30 miles out to sea.

Cyrenaica: Night attacks were carried out on the port of Derna and at Bardia. Direct hits were made on the mole at Derna and a number of fires were started. From these operations all our aircraft returned safely.

### ITALIAN TROOPS LEAVING ROME

A LARGE number of Italian troops left Rome today for an unknown destination, according to a Rome dispatch to the Vichy News Agency.—B.U.P.

### £4,000,000 Water Scheme For Fire Fighting

**THE** Fire Council has approved an estimated £4,000,000 for the provision of supplementary water supplies for fire fighting.

The object is to secure that in areas of high risk, supplies shall be supplemented by a system of auxiliary supplies in tanks and storage basins.

Steel tanks and special form of piping quickly laid and ready for relaying are being advanced in addition to supplies already delivered and in use.

### GERMANS LOSE ANOTHER FIVE SHIPS IN DAY BOMBING RAIDS

## Blenheims Batter North Sea Convoy

**T**HE SEA HAWK PATROL OF BLENHEIM BOMBERS, UNDER ORDERS TO SWEEP THE ENEMY COAST CLEAR OF GERMAN SHIPPING, SCORED ANOTHER SPECTACULAR SUCCESS YESTERDAY WITH THE PROBABLE DESTRUCTION OF FOUR MORE SUPPLY SHIPS. A FIFTH WAS HIT BY COASTAL COMMAND BEAUFORTS OF THE NORWEGIAN COAST.

The convoy attacked off the Hague was so strongly guarded by "flak" ships that they almost equalled in number the vessels which they were escorting, states the Air Ministry News Service.

Nevertheless, the convoy was decisively broken up and four vessels were probably destroyed. The smallest of these, estimated at 4,000 tons, received at least four direct hits and blew up.

Approaching through violent A.A. fire one of the Blenheims flew almost at sea level for its target, a 6,000 tonner in the middle of the convoy.

After the bombs had gone the vessel was not seen and immediately afterwards black smoke poured up from its deck. The rear gunner of the aircraft which had attacked this vessel then turned his guns on a "flak" ship. His bullets must have struck well home, for the "flak" ship was wrecked by a sudden explosion.

**LONDON EXPLOSION**  
The bomb bursts on the fourth night of the London Blitz were not so successful as those of the previous night. The bombs were dropped on the city of London, but the results were not so spectacular as those of the previous night.

Despite bad weather heavy bombers were escorted by fighters to Dunkirk yesterday afternoon, and four Me-109s which attempted to intercept were destroyed by fighter pilots. Low cloud and poor visibility prevented our pilots from checking the full effect of a number of others claimed as probable.

Heavy anti-aircraft fire, thick cloud and haze were encountered. Of the many Me-109s seen the intention was to destroy the bomber. Our losses from all these operations were three bombers and two fighters.

During the raid by the Beauforts on the coast of Norway, the Norwegian coast cottages turned out to cheer the RAF. Our bomber passed between the masts of the ship, and the pilot of the Beaufort was seen to fall through the rigging.

A few minutes later, when the Beauforts returned to take the ship with their machine-guns, the crew saw that the vessel had started heavily.

**38 IN A WEEK**  
No fewer than 38 of Hitler's supply, patrol and escort vessels were heavily attacked during the past week. The total tonnage was at least 216,000. In the previous week 28 enemy ships were attacked.

### WRENS WITH RAF AT SINGAPORE

**STRONG** reinforcements of RAF personnel arrived at Singapore yesterday from Britain.

Ten Wrens were with them.—B.U.P.

Regional commissioners are to visit the islands in the Pacific and to be assisted by local authorities concerned.

These changes and improvements were announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs in a statement. An officer from the technical staff at regional headquarters will work in close co-operation with the fire service department and its officers to direct and coordinate the efforts of the local authorities.

The central organisation at the Home Office has been strengthened both administratively and technically. In particular, a special water section has been added to the chief engineer's branch under a deputy chief engineer.

The section will give technical guidance to the fire staff on water supply questions, and will be represented on the Fire Council by the chief engineer or his deputy.

### 31 Days Of Our Air Offensive

## 301 ME.S DOWN IN 36 RAIDS

**O**UR FIGHTER PILOTS FLEW MORE THAN 2,000,000 MILES ON SUCCESSFUL FIGHTER-BOMBER OFFENSIVE FROM JUNE 14 TO JULY 14. THE AIR MINISTRY SAID YESTERDAY.

### Three Sorties From Tobruk

**THREE** simultaneous sorties from Tobruk were made by our troops early on Friday, said the official Cairo communiqué yesterday.

The raids were made on a broad front against enemy positions facing the western perimeter.

"So successful was this large-scale patrol activity," the communiqué said, "that for nearly three hours the enemy put down an extensive artillery barrage along the whole of our perimeter."

With little loss to ourselves, serious casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Throughout the operation British and Indian troops which were engaged showed admirable initiative and determination.

"This continuous and deep penetration made by our patrols is holding positions outside our perimeter."

In the frontier area, patrol activities are continuing. On Friday an enemy armed fighting patrol was engaged and put to flight.

### STEELWORK SMASHED

Thirty-six offensive raids were made in the 31 days under review, the most effective active period being over the week-end when the Germans invaded Russia.

In five operations then 75 enemy fighters were destroyed, and many others probably destroyed. Our losses were eight fighters.

Some of the results of bombing on these escorted operations show that the chemical works and power plants at Chocoma no longer appear to be active; the steel works at Fives, Lille, are badly battered.

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